

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present:	Chairman Bass, Members Dean, O'Connor, Cavallini
Members Absent:	Members Baggett and Hoselton
Other Members Present:	None
Staff Members Present:	Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office
Department Heads Present:	Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer;
Others Present:	Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Specialist II, Auditor's Office

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. He stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes of the July 11, 2006 Transportation Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the approval of the bills from July, 2006. Mr. Dean asked how are the fuel expenses this year compared to the budgeted amount. Mr. Mitchell responded that the fuel expenses are at approximately 50% of the budget. Part of the reason that the fuel expenses are slightly under the budget appropriation is because the project on the Bentown-Holder Road has been delayed due to the fact that the right-of-way has not yet been obtained. Mr. Dean asked if the Highway Department continues to use bio-diesel. Mr. Mitchell responded that State law requires that government agencies must use bio-diesel when it is available. It is typically not available in the winter due to jelling problems.

Motion by Cavallini/O'Connor to recommend approval of the bills for June, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the first two items are letting results from lettings which took place on August 8th and August 14th. He asked Mr. Mitchell if it would be appropriate to take these two items together. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, replied that it would be appropriate to take these together. Mr. Mitchell explained that the first item on the August 8th letting is a micro-surfacing project on two County roads. This is a new process for McLean County. It has been used by other Counties in the past. It is a mixture of crushed limestone, oil and cement that is poured in a thin layer (1/4 to 3/8 of an inch) over the existing surface on a road. Typically, this process is used on oil and chip roads. It is mixed in an auger truck, poured onto the road and a big squeegee smoothes and levels the mixture on the road. The Highway Department is proposing that micro-surfacing be done on Towanda-Barnes from Ft. Jesse to Route 66 and for one mile on Towanda East Road just east of Towanda.

The other two items that were let on August 8th are Township Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) gravel projects in Lexington and Money Creek Road District.

At the August 15th letting, bids were taken for the resurfacing of the LeRoy School Road. It is a half mile section which needs a level binder and resurfacing. The low estimate was by Rowe Construction at \$89,508.40, which is 4.32% under the estimate.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend approval of the Resolutions and Letting Results from an August 8th and an August 14th letting for County and Township Projects. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is proposed changes to Exhibit B of the Road Agreement with Horizon Wind Farm. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that there has been a change in the route which Horizon is using to haul gravel. Originally, when the Road Agreement was signed, it was assumed that Horizon would be buying gravel from the K & R Gravel Pit. However, Horizon has been purchasing gravel from Pontiac which is putting stress on the Westin-Colfax Road.

Mr. Mitchell contacted officials at Horizon to discuss options regarding the stress they are putting on the Westin-Colfax Road. Mr. Mitchell came up with an estimate to widen and overlay the Westin-Colfax Road in three sections. The estimate shows the costs to upgrade the road to the specifications for Horizon's trucks to safely haul versus the cost for upgrading to the usual standards. The north 7.5 miles of this road was deteriorated before Horizon began using it, but was not severely damaged. That portion of the road was scheduled to be resurfaced within the next several years, but will have to be overlaid with an additional 1½ inches to handle the truck traffic. The next 4.5 miles south to U.S. Route 165 was resurfaced a couple of years ago and is in good shape, but would need an additional 1.5 inch overlay to handle the Horizon traffic. The portion between U.S. Route 165 and U.S. Route 9 was overlaid in 1999. It is showing some cracking and would need to be widened and overlaid for the additional traffic. Horizon's portion of the proposed upgrade would be \$1,455,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has presented this proposal to Horizon and expects an answer quickly. There are two other options. The first option would be to let Horizon continue to haul on the road as it is now and when it deteriorates later on, have Horizon foot the entire bill for the repairs. The other option is to post the roads back to 64,000 lbs. and force Horizon to take an alternate route. The alternate route would cost them significantly more in fuel expenses. Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommends approval of the proposal in which Horizon splits the costs with the County to repair the road. Horizon's share of the cost would be \$1,455,000.00.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of the changes to Exhibit B of the Horizon Wind Farm Road Agreement contingent upon approval by Horizon Wind Farm. Motion carried.

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Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that he will let them know what Horizon's decision is as soon as he hears back from them.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the project summary. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Ellsworth Wind Farm Box Culverts are done and awaiting final payment. The Horizon Wind Farm resurfacing is completed. There is still some work to be done at the intersections. The binder is down on the White Oak Road project and the Highway Department is awaiting the signal work to be done at the College Avenue intersection. The Old Route 150 bridge replacement project has been much slower moving than expected due to the fact that this project requires work with a 70 foot long steel "H" pile. There is a major high voltage line right near the job site. Problems began when Stark Excavating didn't have a crane big enough to handle this job. Additionally, the power company refused to shut the power down to the high voltage line because the weather got too hot. The power was shut down last week and Stark secured a crane so the steel "H" pile has been driven. This job should be completed soon. The Peacock Bridge is completed and is now open to traffic. There is only minor clean up work left to be completed.

The joint culvert project in the City of Chenoa on Letcher Street is underway. Stark is currently pouring the head walls. Entler Excavating has removed the box from the Fairfield Culvert and the base board has been installed.

The East Side Highway Study is awaiting approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). IDOT has forwarded several questions to the consultant.

The Township Road Commissioner's picnic is Friday, August 18th at the Cooksville Fire Department. Mr. Cavallini and Mr. Dean stated that they would attend.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5th which is the day after Labor Day. He asked if anyone wanted to reschedule the meeting to a later date. Ms. O'Connor stated that she couldn't come on a later date as she will be on an Alaskan cruise. Mr. Dean stated that earlier was better for him as well. It was decided that the meeting will remain on Tuesday, September 5th.

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Chairman Bass asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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